

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

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PANDEMIC

VIRUS EXPECTED TO SURGE IN U.S.



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travelers wait to check in their luggage at Los Angeles International Airport on Saturday. President Donald Trump has expanded his ban on most Europeans entering the United States to include people from Britain and Ireland to try to slow the spread of the new coronavirus.

Washington, D.C.:

The nation’s leaders confront outbreak with new tools and angst

By Colleen Long, Michael Balsamo and Aamer Madhani
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » President Donald Trump announced Saturday that the United States will expand its European travel restrictions to include Britain and Ireland as the U.S., armed with new tools against the pandemic, braced for it to get worse before it gets better. The government’s top infection expert warned that COVID-19, which is caused by the novel coronavirus, may surge within the nation in coming days.

Under the restrictions on European travel, American citizens, green card holders and others are still allowed to return home to the U.S., but they will

TRAVEL » PAGE 11



ALEX BRANDON — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trump speaks during a news conference about the coronavirus in the James Brady Briefing Room at the White House on Saturday in Washington.

INSIDE

A6: Coronavirus roils financial waters for idled cruise industry; key questions about the coronavirus answered.

A7: Realtors see some unease in the housing market; shoppers flock to grocery stores on Saturday.

A13: A second Marine stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar has tested positive for coronavirus.

Southland: Those who are sick are finding that receiving a test for virus can be daunting

By David Rosenfeld
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Renee Schwartz started feeling sick a few weeks ago after returning from a trip to Houston. As her bronchitis-like symptoms worsened, the 60-year-old North Hills resident said she began to think the worst: maybe she has the novel coronavirus.

But as she quickly found out, getting a test for the virus that is sweeping the world in a deadly pandemic wouldn’t be that easy.

“Why can’t I get tested?” she asked. “I need to know if I have it so I can tell people who I had a contact with that they might be infected.”

Schwartz’s frustration is shared by

TESTING » PAGE 11

Orange County: Homeless population especially vulnerable to spread of disease

By Theresa Walker
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@TellTheresa on Twitter

Cruz Miramontes may be homeless and living on the street in Placentia, but he pays attention to the news. And what he’s hearing about the spread of novel coronavirus, and the disease it leads to, COVID-19, has him worried for himself and the 80 or so other people who live in tents and shedlike structures near the 57 Freeway overpass on West Crowther Avenue.

“There’s a great fear that it is starting to spread,” said Miramontes, 50, of the highly contagious viral infection that erupted in China late last year and has spread around the world. “If you’re going to find any unsanitary conditions, it’s going to be here.”

That makes Miramontes even more anxious to move into the 100-bed shelter that the city expects to open by the end of the month. Until then, he says, he’d like to see hand-washing stations

HOMELESS » PAGE 13



JEFF GRITCHEN — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pastor Donald Dermot, right, hugs Cruz Miramontes, a homeless man living on Industrial Way in Placentia on Wednesday.

REHAB RIVIERA

Statute to stop body brokering not being prosecuted

Lawmakers say DOJ not pursuing addiction centers

By Teri Sforza and Tony Saavedra
Staff writers

As California continues to grapple with the plague of body brokering — the sometimes-deadly practice in which addiction centers lure substance abusers into treatment, max out their insurance benefits, then give them drugs so they can test “dirty” and start the lucrative billing cycle again — state officials fear the federal government doesn’t have their backs.

Since President Donald Trump signed a sweeping measure to address the nation’s opioid crisis in October 2018, the Department of Justice hasn’t prosecuted a single case for body brokering, according to the department.

“It is extremely frustrating that the Department of Justice has not aggressively pursued cases where brokers treat patients as commodities, exploiting them for finders’ fees with no intention of providing legitimate care,” Rep. Mike Levin, D-San Juan Capistrano, said in a prepared statement. “There is no excuse for their failure to prosecute these cases, particularly when we desperately need an all-hands-on-deck approach to this crisis.”

Levin and five other Congress members wrote to U.S. Attorney General William Barr in August, stressing the need for federal action on body brokering. Since state laws against the practice vary widely from state to state — and since patients are often brokered across state lines — “it is critical that the federal government step in,” they wrote.

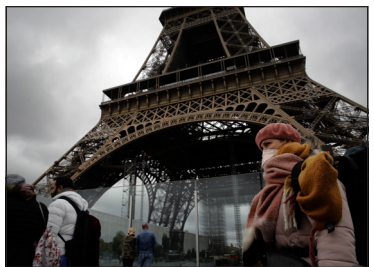
The letter also was signed by Reps. Harley Rouda, ADDICTION » PAGE 8

THEME PARKS

Fans flock to Disneyland before temporary closure

Disneyland and Disney California Adventure closed on Friday and will remain closed through the end of the month due to fears over spread of COVID-19. PAGE A3

GLOBAL PANDEMIC



Spanish lockdown on; Parisian nightlife off

Spain has announced a lockdown of its 46 million people, France has closed the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre, as governments take sweeping measures to reduce contact between people. PAGE A12

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